

HOUSE No. 127

By Mr. Rushing of Boston, petition of Byron Rushing and others relative to the facilitation of voting in the Commonwealth. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Byron Rushing	Deborah D. Blumer
Robert M. Koczera	Elizabeth A. Malia
Anne M. Paulsen	Gloria L. Fox
Mark J. Carron	Frank I. Smizik

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE FACILITATION OF VOTING IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 A special commission of at least 15 members shall be estab-
2 lished for the purpose of making an investigation and study to
3 evaluate issues specific to the election laws in order to facilitate
4 voting by citizens of the Commonwealth. Such issues shall
5 include, without limitation: improvement in the selection and
6 compensation of poll workers; voter registration procedures,
7 including election day registration; maintenance and updating of
8 the central voter registry; the removal of barriers to voting by lin-
9 guistic minorities and the disabled; improvements in voting equip-
10 ment standards; early voting; allowances for time off from work
11 to vote, without loss of compensation; ensuring adequate fiscal
12 resources to administer state and local elections; and programs to
13 encourage voter education for school-aged children and adults of
14 voting age.

15 The commission shall consist of: the house and senate
16 chairmen of the joint committee on election laws, who shall chair
17 the commission and, in the event that both chairman are from the

18 same political party, shall appoint at least one representative from
19 the second leading party; the state secretary, or his designee; one
20 representative appointed by the League of Women Voters of
21 Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Voter Education Network, the
22 Massachusetts Commission for the Disabled, the National Association
23 for the Advancement of Colored People of Boston, and the
24 Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce; a college student
25 appointed by the Massachusetts Student Senate; a high school student
26 appointment by Kids Voting of Massachusetts; two representatives
27 appointed by the Massachusetts City Clerks Association
28 and the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association; and other representatives,
29 with experience in election administration and other
30 relevant backgrounds, as agreed to by the members of the commission.
31 mission.

32 The commission shall report to the general court the results of
33 its investigation and study, and its recommendations, if any, to
34 carry such recommendation into effect by filing same with the
35 clerk of the house of representatives on or before December 31,
36 2005.